

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00428 201554 Z

52

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 /116 W

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R 192205 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2631

AMEMBASSY QUITO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUAYAQUIL 428

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJ: INDUSTRIAL MOLINERA EXECUTIVES STILL BEING HELD

REF: GUAYAQUIL 378

1. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 19 CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT OF THE GUAYAQUIL SPECIAL TRIBUNAL, COURT WHICH IS HANDLING SUBJECT CASE AND WHICH ORDERED THE ARREST OF INDUSTRIAL MOLINERA EXECUTIVES LEON FEBRES- CORDERO AND ENRIQUE PONCE. COURT SPOKESMAN DECLARED THEY WILL REMAIN IN PRISON UNTIL THEY DEPOSIT THE MONEY NECESSARY TO COVER THE CHECK EXTRACTED FROM THEM LAST MAY TO COVER THEIR COMPANY' S ALLEGED TAX LIABILITY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE COURT HAS FINISHED PREPARING ITS OPINION, ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS HAVE YET COME TO LIGHT.

2. GIVEN THE ABOVE, IT LOOKS LIKE THE GOE MAY HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THE TWO BUSINESSMEN. WE HAVE HEARD IT RUMORED HERE THAT PRES. RODRIGUEZ WAS ORIGINALLY INCLINED TO DISMISS THE CASE. THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR LAST WEEK' S UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORT THE SPECIAL TRIBUNAL HAD FOUND ITSELF LACKING JURISDICTION TO CONSIDER THE MATTER. IN THE FACE OF THIS TRIAL BALLOON, HOWEVER, THE COUNTRY' S VARIOUS MILITARY ZONE COMMERS ARE SAID TO HAVE DESCENDED ON RODRIGUEZ IN A BODY AND INFORMED HIM THAT ANY DECISION TO LET INDUSTRIAL MOLINERA OFF THE HOOK WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR

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THEM TO JUSTIFY PUBLICLY AND VERY DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT PERSONALLY.
HENCE THE TURNABOUT.

3. SUCH AN ADVERSE DECISION WILL BE EQUALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE
FIERY FEBRES- CORDER TO ACCEPT, EVEN IF THE MONEY EVENTUALLY COMES
FROM HIS EMPLOYER' S POCKET. A SUBSTANTIAL SUM IS INVOLVED, AND THE
WAY IT IS BEING RIPPED OFF, PLUS THE INDIGNITIES TO WHICH FEBRES AND
PONCE ARE BEING SUBJECTED, WILL LONG BE RESENTED BY GUAYAQUIL
OLIGARCHS, EVEN IF BRIEFLY APPLAUDED BY THE MAN IN THE STREET.
SHAW

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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